

Applicant: Eckl et al.

Application No.:

In The Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A [[C]]cover for an energy guide chain, where the cover
comprises:(1) has a first end region,(2) and a second end region, [[(3)]] and is designed with at
least one elastic section [[(4)]] provided between the first end region (2) and wherein the second
end region [[(3)]] is, designed in such a way that the following relationship applies to it:

$$\Delta L/S < 1$$

where ΔL is the length change of the cover with a length L_0 according to Hook's law, and
S is the actual length change of the cover.

2. (Currently Amended) The [[C]]cover according to [[C]]claim 1, characterized in that
the at least one section [[(4)]] has a wavy shape.

3. (Currently Amended) The [[C]]cover according to [[C]]claim 2, characterized in that
the at least section [[(4)]] has waves of different heights [[(H)]].

4. (Currently Amended) The [[C]]cover according to [[C]]claim 2 or 3, characterized in
that the at least one section [[(4)]] has waves of different periods.

5. (Currently Amended) The [[C]]cover according to [[C]]claim 2,3 or 4, characterized
in that the flanks [[(6)]] of the waves of the at least one section [[(4)]] have different slopes.

6. (Currently Amended) The [[C]]cover according to one of Cclaim[[s]] 2 to 5,
characterized in that the wave troughs [[(8)]] and the wave crests [[(7)]] of the waves of the at
least one section [[(4)]] have different curvatures.

7. (Currently Amended) The [[C]]cover according to one of Cclaim[[s]] 2 to 6,
characterized in that the wave crests [[(7)]] and/or wave troughs [[(8)]] of the waves have
different cross-sections than the flanks [[(7)]] of the waves.

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8. (Currently Amended) The [[€]]cover according to [[€]]claim 7, characterized in that the wave crests [[(7)]] and/or wave through S [[(8)]] of the waves have a lower thickness than the flanks [[(6)]].

9. (Currently Amended) The [[€]]cover according to one of Cclaim[[s]] 2 to 8, characterized in that the wavy section [[(4)]] is provided with a microstructure, at least partly.

10. (Currently Amended) The [[€]]cover according to one of Cclaim[[s]] 2 to 9, characterized in that the at least one section [[(4)]] has at least two regions where the regions have a different structure.

11. (Currently Amended) The [[€]]cover according to one of Cclaim[[s]] 1 to 10, characterized by at least two cover parts (11, 12), which partially overlap, where the cover parts (11, 12) are linked through at least one plate [[(13)]] running essentially transversely to the longitudinal direction of cover [[(4)]].

12. (Currently Amended) The [[€]]cover according to [[€]]claim 11, characterized in that the at least one plate [[(13)]] is designed to have spring elasticity.

13. (Currently Amended) The [[€]]cover according to [[€]]claim 11 or 12, characterized by the fact that the at least one plate [[(13)]] is designed to have a wavy shape, at least partly.

14. (Currently Amended) The [[€]]cover according to one of Cclaim[[s]] 1 to 13, characterized in that the first and/or second end region (2, 3) is/are designed so that this is/these are each is suitable for positive and/or nonpositive locking to a transverse link [[(14)]] of a chain link.

15. (Currently Amended) The [[€]]cover according to one of Cclaim[[s]] 1 to 13, characterized in that the first and/or the second end region (2, 3) is/are designed as a transverse link/transverse links.

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16. (Currently Amended) The [[€]]cover according to one of Cclaim[[s]] 1 to 15,
characterized in that these have at least two sections [[(4)]] and at least one fastening region
formed between the two sections [[(4)]], intended for linking to a chain link.

17. (Currently Amended) The [[€]]cover according to one of Cclaim[[s]] 1 to 16,
characterized in that it is made of a plastic, at least partly.

18. (Currently Amended) The [[€]]cover according to [[€]]claim 17, characterized in that
at least one section [[(4)]] is made of at least two plastics with different elasticities.

19. (Currently Amended) A [[C]]chain link of an energy guide chain comprising:
with two mounting links [[(18)]];
with at least one transverse link [[(14)]] joining the mounting links [[(18)]];
and at least one cover [[(1)]], where the cover [[(1)]] has a first end region [[(2)]] and a
second end region [[(3)]] and has at least one elastic section [[(4)]] provided
between the first end region [[(2)]] and the second end region [[(3)]], designed in
such a way that the following relationship applies to it:

$$\Delta L/S < 1$$

where ΔL is the length change of the cover with a length L_0 according to
Hooks law, and S is the actual length change of the cover.

20. (Currently Amended) The [[€]]chain link according to [[€]]claim 19, characterized in
that the cover [[(4)]] is specifically separably joined to at least one transverse link [[(14)]].

21. (Currently Amended) The [[€]]chain link according to [[€]]claim 20, characterized in
that at least one transverse link [[(14)]] is joined pivotably to at least one mounting link [[(18)]].

22. (Currently Amended) The [[€]]chain link according to [[€]]claim 19, 20 or 21,
characterized in that it has at least one fastening element (23), which is joined to a cover (4).

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23. (Currently Amended) The [[E]]chain link according to one of Cclaim[[s]] 19 to 21, characterized by a cover (4) according to one or several of Claims 2 to 18.

24. (Currently Amended) An [[E]]energy guide chain with a multiplicity of chain links [[(21)]], linked together with joints, where at least some chain links [[(14)]] have at least one cover [[(1)]]], characterized in that the cover [[(1)]] has a first end region [[(2)]] and a second end region [[(3)]] and at least one elastic section [[(4)]] provided between the first end region [[(2)]] and second end region [[(3)]]], designed in such a way that the following relationship applies to it:

$$\Delta L/S < 1$$

where ΔL is the length change of the cover with a length L_0 according to Hook's law, and S is the actual length change of the cover.

25. (Currently Amended) The [[E]]energy guide chain according to [[E]]claim 24, characterized in that at least one cover [[(4)]] extends over at least two chain links [[(21)]].

26. (Currently Amended) The [[E]]energy guide chain according to [[E]]claim 24 or 25, characterized in that a first end region [[(2)]] and/or a second end region [[(3)]] is/are connected especially separably with a transverse link [[(14)]].

27. (Currently Amended) The [[E]]energy guide chain according to [[E]]claim 24, 25 or 26, characterized in that at least some chain links [[(21)]] have fastening elements [[(23)]] which are intended for fastening at least one cover [[(4)]].

28. (Currently Amended) The [[E]]energy guide chain according to one of Cclaim[[s]] 24 to 27, characterized in that at least one cover [[(4)]] is joined to two neighboring chain links [[(21)]].

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29. (Currently Amended) The [[E]]energy guide chain according to ~~one of the Claims of~~
~~Claim[[s]] 24 to 28, where a cover [[(4)]] is designed according to one or several of Claims 2 to~~
~~18.~~

30. (Currently Amended) The [[E]]energy guide chain according to ~~one of the Claims of~~
~~Claim[[s]] 24 to 29, characterized in that this is formed at least partly of chain links (14)~~
~~according to one of Claims 19 to 23.~~